THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (d) A pilot project for implementation of the revised strategy for National TB Control programme is being implemented with World Bank assistance in Vaishali district of Bihar. The Government has also recently negotiated a project for TB Control Programme in India with the World Bank. This project involves extension of implementation of revised strategy for National TB Programme to seven more districts of Bihar, besides providing additional inputs to strengthen the State TB Control unit and the District TB Centre where Short Course Chemotherapy is being implemented, apart from providing drugs & for sputum negative cases in all the districts. The credit agreement with the World Bank for the negotiated project is yet to be signed and only preparatory work for implementation of the project is being undertaken in all the States including Bihar.

New Biosanitiser Bacteria to Purify Waste Water

1135. SHRI VED PRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in Economic Times of 15.12.96 that a new biosanitiser bacteria has been isolated to purify waste water; and

(b) whether it has been developed to a level of commercial application and any plant has been set up from which actual field data may be available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Different microbial cultures have been isolated at various institutions for the treatment of waste water and some of these cultures are already being used for waste water

Sale of Fake Medicines in the name of Herbal Medicines

1136. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many companies are selling chemical medicine in the name of herbal medicine and devaluing the market of real Ayurvedic treatment;

(b) the steps Government propose to check this trend; and

(c) whether there is any ensuing system to scrutiny a medicine making unit for the quality control of Ayurvedic medicines and for checking fake medicines coming in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) The definition of Ayurveda, Siddha or Unani Drug brand a patent and proprietary medicine is given in Section 3(a) and Section 3(h) respectively of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act. The procedure of manufacture for sale and quality control measures of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Drugs have been laid down in the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules. These activities fall within the purview of State Governments.

The Government of India has been requesting State Governments to strictly enforce the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and the Rules made thereunder.

Need for Reorientation Course for Doctors

1137. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the latest inventions and developments taking place in Medical Science;

(b) whether Government feels that our doctors require reorientation course to update their knowledge;

(c) whether Government propose to arrange refresher courses for our Doctors by organising Seminars and inviting experts from advanced

(d) whether Government also consider it necessary to send Doctors abroad to acquaint themselves with the latest knowledge of medical science; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) In order to keep pace with the advances in medical sciences, doctors are exposed to Continuing Medical Education (CME) programmes/workshops in various disciplines perodically organised by the institutions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Medical Council of India, as the nodal agency for coordination of the CME scheme, organised short-duration training programmes in medical colleges/hospitals in different parts of the country in association with foreign faculty from USA/UK. Facilities for training abroad also exist through international fellowships and bilateral research programmes with assistance from various international agencies such as WHO, Ford Foundation, UNDP etc.

New National Population Policy

1138. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI-RAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out a new National Population Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) what are the details of the action plan, if any, laid down to implement the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) On the basis of comments received from other Ministries/States on the preliminary draft National Population Policy prepared by an Expert Group, a Statement on the National Population Policy was drafted and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha in reply to the Starred Question No. 262 answered on 10th December, 1996. This draft Statement, alongwith a draft Note for the Cabinet has been circulated among Ministries/ Departments concerned for final comments before seeking the approval of the Cabinet.

Possibility of Serious Damage to Nation's Moral Standards by Foreign Telecast

1139. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations to the possibility of serious damage to the nation's aesthetic and moral standards in case foreign television channels are permitted to telecast programmes without any restrictions;

(b) whether this has reference to the call given by the Minister while inacquarating the annual national convention of AIR and DD Engineers Association on 26th December, 1996;

(c) if so, whether Government will refer the issue to a group of eminent personalities; and

(d) whether it is proposed to examine the technological devices to exclude undesirable telecast matters from entering the country's airwaves as successfully deployed in China and Singapore?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The adverse impact of unrestricted programming by foreign satellite channels on Indian values and culture has been a subject matter of public debate in different fora and was also raised in the annual national convention of AIR and DD Engineers Association on 26th December, 1996.

(c) and (d) Government intends to introduce a bill in the Parliament which would seek to bring the foreign satellite channels within the ambit of the proposed law and *inter-alia* provide for application of broadcasting and advertising code to such satellite channels